



Jewett White Lead

*Community Involvement Plan*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

[www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/removal/jewettwhitelead](http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/removal/jewettwhitelead)  
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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's)  
community involvement program is committed  
to promoting communication between the public and the Agency.

Active public involvement and transparency are crucial to the success of any  
public project. The success of environmental efforts depends on earning and  
maintaining the trust of the public we serve.

EPA's community involvement activities at the  
Jewett White Lead Company Superfund Site  
are designed to inform the public of the nature of the environmental issues  
associated with the site, involve and include the public in the decision-making  
process that will affect them, and inform the public of the progress being made to  
implement the cleanup.

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## **Section 1**

### **Overview of the Community Involvement Plan**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed this Community Involvement Plan to facilitate two-way communication between the community surrounding the Jewett White Lead Company Superfund Site and EPA, and to encourage community involvement in the site activities. EPA will utilize the community involvement activities outlined in this plan to ensure that residents are continuously informed and provided opportunities to be involved.

This Community Involvement Plan addresses Jewett White Lead Company's relationship to the community and EPA. It provides a background of the community, presents EPA's community involvement program and provides a listing of resources available. EPA drew upon several information sources to develop this plan, including community interviews and site files. EPA's regional office based in New York City will oversee the implementation of the community involvement activities outlined in this plan.

## **Section 2**

### **Site Background**

#### **2.1 Site History**

The Site consists of the historic footprint of the former Jewett White Lead Company facility and the extent of contamination which includes the property at 2000-2012 Richmond Terrace and 2015 Richmond Terrace. The Site is situated within an urban mixed use residential neighborhood with concentrations of industrial and manufacturing facilities situated along the waterfront, within the Port Richmond section of the Borough of Staten Island, New York.

Historically, John Jewett & Sons White Lead Company operated a white lead manufacturing facility at the 2015 Richmond Terrace property from 1839 to 1890, when National Lead & Oil Company of New York (National Lead) purchased the business. National Lead continued the manufacture of white lead at the 2015 Richmond Terrace property, and extended the operations across the street to include the 2000 Richmond Terrace property. National Lead owned and operated at both properties until approximately 1943.

Currently the 2015 Richmond Terrace portion of the Site is owned by the Moran Towing Corporation, which operates an active tug boat facility on this property.

Between 1949 and 1990, various businesses operated at the 2000-2012 Richmond Terrace property including Sedutto's Ice Cream factory. The buildings on this portion of the Site were eventually razed and cleared after several fires occurred at the Sedutto's Ice Cream factory. Currently Perfetto Realty Corporation (PRC) owns the 2000-2012 Richmond Terrace portion of the Jewett White Lead Site. The property, an unpaved vacant lot, was utilized by PRC to store equipment and materials from local construction projects.

On June 3, 2008, the Council of New York submitted a written request to evaluate the portion of the Site located at 2000-2012 Richmond Terrace for potential environmental contamination. A

Removal Site Evaluation to evaluate the property for a removal action under the authority of CERCLA found elevated levels of lead throughout most of the 2000-2012 Richmond Terrace property, both laterally and with depth. The average surface lead concentration was 5,081 mg/kg.

## 2.2 Site Location/Description

The Site is located on the North Shore of Staten Island in the Port Richmond section. The area around the Site is a mix of residential, light industrial, and commercial. A residential neighborhood commences just south of the elevated railroad line. The nearest residence is located approximately 100 feet south of the Site. Bus stops are present on both sides of Richmond Terrace in front of the Site and on Park Avenue across the street from the entrance to the 2000-2012 Richmond Terrace property.

The 2000-2012 Richmond Terrace portion of the Site is bordered to the south by an abandoned railroad line, to the west by Park Avenue, and to the north and east by Richmond Terrace. The 2015 Richmond Terrace portion of the Site is bordered to the east by a shipyard facility, to the west by Cable Queen, a New York submarine contracting company, to the north by the Kill Van Kull (a body of water which is a tributary of the New York Harbor), and to the south by Richmond Terrace. The two properties are separated by Richmond Terrace, the main roadway running east-west parallel to the Kill Van Kull. Richmond Terrace has been an active roadway since the early nineteenth century, and many of Staten Island's first industries were established on what is now called Richmond Terrace, but was originally named Shore Road.

In 2009, EPA selected Port Richmond, and the adjoining neighborhoods along the north shore of Staten Island, as a nationally-designated Environmental Justice Showcase Community.

## 2.3 Site Cleanup

In December 2008, EPA collected soil samples from the 2000-2012 Richmond Terrace property. The analytical results from the December 2008 sampling event revealed the presence of elevated levels of lead throughout most of that property, both laterally and with depth.

Based upon the recommendations of the New York State Department of Health, EPA determined that an interim cleanup was required to prevent soils from leaving the property. At the request of EPA, the property owner took an action on April 6, 2009 to stop the off-site movement of soils and sediment due to runoff. The action consisted of the installation of a silt fence and hay bales; removal of lead-contaminated soils and sediments from sidewalks and curb lines; spreading grass seed and mulch on the property to hold soils in place. Air monitoring done during all on-site and off-site activities monitored for lead dust in the air.

Based upon the elevated levels of lead in both the surface soils at the 2000-2012 Richmond Terrace property and the additional samples collected along the adjacent sidewalk, EPA collected additional off-site samples in the surrounding community, including residential backyards of the properties immediately adjacent to the former Jewett White Lead facility property and in a background area located upwind of the Site.

Elevated levels of lead were found in the residential backyards sampled and in the surrounding community; however, attribution analysis indicated that environmental sources of lead other than from the Site are the primary contributors to lead contamination in this community. The lead in the community appears to be consistent with urban lead contamination typically seen in the industrialized Northeast United States.

In June 2009, EPA collected surficial soil samples from the 2015 Richmond Terrace property portion of the Jewett White Lead Site. The soil samples were collected from portions of the property where exposed soil was present or where the concrete and asphalt appeared to be in disrepair. Elevated levels of lead were found to be in the samples collected at concentrations that ranged from 145 mg/kg to 2,730 mg/kg, with the highest lead concentrations present in the surface soils adjacent the Richmond Terrace sidewalk.

EPA is conducting an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for the Site, to gather the data necessary to select the removal action for the Site. From October 4 to October 28, 2010, EPA collected additional environmental samples at the former Jewett White Lead Site to conduct the EE/CA.

EPA will make a final decision on how the Site will be addressed following the public comment period on the EE/CA. This decision will be documented in an Action Memorandum, which will be included in the Administrative Record for the Site. It is anticipated that a non-time-critical removal action will begin at the Site in Spring 2011.

### **Section 3 Community Background**

#### **3.1 Community Profile**

Port Richmond is a neighborhood situated on the North Shore of Staten Island, one of the five boroughs of New York City. It is along the waterfront of the Kill Van Kull with the southern terminus of the Bayonne Bridge. Richmond Terrace, the main roadway running east-west along the Kill Van Kull has been active since the early 19th century. Many of Staten Island's first industries were established along what is now called Richmond Terrace. It was also an important transportation and industrial center of the island. It is presently a largely a blue collar residential area bypassed by the shift of development of the island.

Approximately half of the residents in Port Richmond are White (community's interior), African-American, Hispanic or Latino, Asian and Native American and almost one quarter claim other.

Port Richmond is predominantly populated by poor and working class Latinos and African Americans, including many immigrants.

The Housing consists primarily of older houses and apartments. The average yearly income of a family of three in the neighborhood is approximately \$19,000.

### 3.2 Key Community Concerns

As a result of various meetings in the area, the following questions were raised (Answers follow):

**Who would finance the implementation of the response action?**

EPA will finance the implementation of the response action that is ultimately selected.

**Should the two bus stops adjacent to the site be temporarily relocated?**

Based on data sampling collected, it is not necessary to relocate or close the bus stops.

**Specific health effects attributable to the contaminants of concern should be identified. What health effects might result from living close to the contaminated soils?**

The primary contaminant of concern is lead. The potential health effects associated with lead are usually developmental.

**Have there been any studies to determine whether there is a relationship between the contamination at the site and health problems of some residents?**

According to the New York State Department of Health, there have not been any specific health studies to examine a potential link between contaminated soils at the site and diseases in the area.

**If EPA is not performing a clean-up in the back yards or the surrounding community what resources are available for assistance?**

EPA is committed to assisting the Port Richmond community in reducing exposure to the elevated levels of lead. We are working closely with our local and state partners to develop a plan and find resources to reduce residents' exposure to lead.

### **Environmental Showcase Community**

This effort brings together governmental and non-governmental organizations and pools their collective resources and expertise on the best ways to achieve real results in the community.

EPA Region 2 is working with the North Shore of Staten Island, a former industrial community that contains abandoned, contaminated, and regulated properties along the waterfront, because the neighborhood has seen an increase in numbers of high blood lead levels among children. EPA in consultation with key community members, state and local health agencies, is developing a community-based health strategy for the area. The Agency is providing \$100,000 to this project (over a two year period) to help alleviate the environmental and human health challenges facing the community.

### 3.3 Summary of Communication Needs

Starting in April 2009 EPA had various meeting with key community members and community groups to discuss findings, site activities, lead risks and community involvement.

In June 2009, representatives from EPA, New York City Department of Health, ATSDR, New York City Parks department held a series of meetings with local officials, representatives from North Shore Waterfront Conservancy, Project Hospitality and Northfield LDC and the general public attended a meeting in Port Richmond to talk about EPA's involvement at the site, environmental lead hazards, off-site sampling, role of Superfund and next steps. A separate meeting was held for targeted residents that live closest to the site requesting access to their property to perform soil sampling and explaining what the sampling would entail.

In March 2010, EPA hosted a public meeting to discuss the findings in soils samples collected to determine if lead found in the soils at the site had affected the surrounding community.

At all meetings fact sheets and other materials were distributed (in English and Spanish) explaining EPA's cleanup and testing methods.

## Section 4

### EPA's Community Involvement Program

EPA will implement the community involvement activities described below.

#### 4.1 Keeping the community informed

EPA has designated a Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC) to act as a primary liaison between the community and EPA to ensure prompt, accurate and consistent responses and information dissemination about the site, to handle site inquiries and serve as the point of contact for community members. The CIC assigned to the Jewett White Lead site is:

Wanda Ayala  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
USEPA Region 2  
290 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007-1866  
(212) 637-3676

Develop and maintain a mailing list (email and physical addresses) to facilitate the distribution of site related information to affected impacted parties. The list has been generated with information provided by sign-in sheets from different meetings.

Provide adequate and meaningful opportunities for community involvement to update the community on site developments and address community questions, concerns, ideas and comments.



Hold public meetings to update the community on site developments and address their questions, concerns, ideas and comments.

Make informal visits to the community to help keep them informed about the site and site activities, while providing EPA with feedback activities and the community's concerns, issues, and opinions.

### **SUGGESTED LOCATION FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Northfield LDC Offices  
160 Heberton Avenue  
Staten Island, NY

Port Richmond High School  
85 St. Josephs Avenue  
Staten Island, NY

### **LIST OF CONTACTS AND INTERESTED PARTIES**

Senator Diane Savino  
Former Congressman Michael E. McMahon  
Congressman Michael Grimm  
Former Councilmember Kenneth C. Mitchell  
Councilmember Debi Rose  
Nick Dmytryszyn, Boro President's office  
Joe Carroll, Community Board #1  
Beryl Thurman, Northshore Waterfront Conservancy  
Terry Troia, Project Hospitality  
Kathleen Bielsa/Michele Sledge, Northfield LDC

**New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**  
Dr. Nathan Graber

**New York City Parks Department**  
Commissioner Thomas Paulo

**EPA Regional Contacts**  
Kimberly Staiger, On-Scene Coordinator  
Eric J. Wilson, Superfund Manager  
Wanda Ayala, Community Involvement Coordinator  
Mark Maddaloni, Toxicologist  
Terry Wesley, Environmental Justice Coordinator  
Leah Graciano, ATSDR